UNDP

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF PAKISTAN

IPF: (1993-98) $87 638 000

(PAK/92/005) - Support to Neelum and Jhelum Valleys Community Development Project

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	18 November 1992
Expected duration:	36 months
Proposed executing agency:	UNDP/OPS in association with FAO
Government implementing agency:	Planning & Development Department, Government of the State of Azad Jammu & Kashmir
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$2 990 600 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$2 990 600
Administrative and Operational Support Services (AOS):	$294 600

Project background

The valleys of the Neelum and Jhelum rivers form part of the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). The State has very complex rural development problems mainly related to the rapid human and livestock population increase in the past two decades which has now reached a point where it clearly exceeds the support capacity of the land under current technological conditions.

Food and livestock production are presently determined by rainfall patterns, degree of soil erosion, altitude, irrigation water availability, animal feed and nutrition problems. The project area has a permanent food deficit. Most of the households only manage to produce enough food to meet basic subsistence needs for about three months in a year. In order to survive, most of the population has to engage in off-farm work, in the area, in other parts of Pakistan or abroad. Large parts of the poorer segments of the target population have been drawn into a deepening cycle of improverishment and indebtedness.

Also, in order to prevent a further deterioration and to gradually improve AJK's development situation, the Government of Pakistan has decided to embark on a large-scale "Rural and Agricultural Development Programme" for Azad Jammu and Kashmir, at a total estimated cost of $24.3 million. The Programme which is expected to address the special needs of the poorest and most disadvantaged sections of the population, i.e. the small farmers, the landless and rural women seeks to maximize productivity per unit area of land, promote community participation in the development of the area's resources so as to ensure the sustainability of development efforts,

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1/ This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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identify and promote proven new technologies in the farm and off-farm sector suitable for adoption by the target population; and strengthen the AJK Government's line departments' capacity to provide inputs and advice required and requested by the rural population.

A very substantial part of the Programme's total cost will be covered by an IFAD loan ($15.6 million) under IFAD's Neelum and Jhelum Valleys Community Development Project, which was approved in 1991, following a five-year survey, assessment and formulation effort, and is now ready for effective implementation. The IFAD project will be administered, monitored, and evaluated by the IFAD Division of OPS.

Description of project

The development objective of the project is to improve the living standards of the poorer, disadvantaged segments of the target area's population. The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) build up the capacity of the AJK Government line departments to deliver input supplies, extension services, identify and promote off-farm income generation opportunities; (b) identify and promote a large number of project area based community development groups (based on successful models used by the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme in Northern Pakistan and by the Sarhad Rural Support Corporation in the North West Frontier Province); and (c) provide substantial training to its members in those subject areas considered relevant and important by the groups.

By the end of the project, key personnel of the AJK Government's line departments will have received sufficient expert advice and substantial training to effectively pursue, on a sustained basis, input supply and extension service with respect to the various development activities (fruit tree planting, agriculture, seed production and multiplication, fodder production, forest tree planting, soil conservation, etc.) to be undertaken under the IFAD loan-financed project. Community development groups will have been formed and trained, enabling them to effectively function as change agents for the entire target population, for the sustained implementation and further development of the activities chosen.

Inputs

UNDP will provide a total of 266 work-months of mainly national expert and consultant services in various subject matters: 36 work-months of rural economist/CTA; 24 work-months of women extension specialist; 18 work-months of income-generation specialists and 180 work-months of national consultancy/expert services); five subcontracts with local institutions/NGOs for surveys, studies and training; 20 work-months of external fellowships, seven study-tours and in-service training; transportation and essential office equipment; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	1 420 900
Subcontract	693 000
Training	306 500
Equipment	352 200
Miscellaneous	218 000
Total	2 990 600

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